

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Claims 1-8 (cancelled)

9. (Amended) A storage allocation method comprising:
receiving a request for media program storage services from a client;

allocating a predetermined amount of client available storage capacity to the client in response to the request for media program storage services, the predetermined amount of client available storage capacity allocated to the client being determined by a request for storage capacity from the client;
assigning a cost to the client based on the allocated amount of storage;

receiving a request for storage of an identified media program from the client; and

storing the identified media program and determining an amount of client available storage capacity remaining after the storage of the identified program.

10. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 9 comprising notifying the client of the amount of remaining client available storage.

11. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 10 comprising offering additional storage capacity to the client.

12. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 9 comprising receiving a request for additional storage from the client and in response thereto, allocating additional storage capacity to the client.

13. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 9 comprising delivering the stored media program from storage to the client and increasing the storage allocated to the client by an amount substantially equal to the storage used to store the stored media program.

14. (Amended) A storage allocation method comprising:
receiving a request for media program storage services from a
client;

allocating a predetermined amount of client available storage
capacity to the client in response to the request for media
program storage services;

receiving a request for storage of an identified media
program from the client;

storing the identified media program and determining an
amount of client available storage capacity remaining after the
storage of the identified program; and

~~A method in accordance with claim 9 wherein~~ establishing an
expiration date is established for the media program stored and
wherein the amount of storage capacity used to store the
identified media program is made reusable by the client at the
passing of the expiration date.

15. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 14 comprising notifying the client of the expiration date before the passing of the expiration date.

16. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 15 comprising offering the client an additional time period of storage for the stored multimedia program.

17. (Amended) A method in accordance with claim 9 wherein the ~~predetermined~~ amount of client available storage capacity requested by ~~allocated~~ the client is determined by a quality of service level requested by the client ~~and the method comprises assigning a cost to the client based on the allocated amount of storage.~~

18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 9 comprising determining the amount of storage needed to store a media program identified by the client and denying storage when the needed amount of storage exceeds the amount of client available storage.

20. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 19 comprising offering additional storage capacity to the client.

21. (Amended) A method in accordance with claim 9 ~~18~~ wherein the identified media program is stored in ~~storage system~~ ~~includes~~ a plurality of media program storage locations and the method comprises notifying an allocator function of the total amount of storage capacity in use to store media programs requested by the client.

22. (Previously Amended) A media program storage system comprising:

a plurality of storage units for receiving and storing a predetermined plurality of media program signals, said storage units being located in different geographic locations;

a network accessible server for receiving requests for storage of identified media program signals from network connected clients and in response to a request from a client for notifying one of the plurality of storage units to receive and store the identified media program signal wherein the network accessible server stores a value identifying an amount of storage available to the client; and

the storage units comprise apparatus responsive to the notifications from the network accessible server for receiving and storing the identified program and for notifying the requesting client of a network address at which to retrieve the stored media program.

23. (Original) A media program storage system in accordance with claim 22 comprising apparatus responsive to a delivery request from the client via the network for delivering the stored media program to the client via the network.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Original) A media program storage system in accordance with claim 22 wherein the network accessible server stores a preferred listing of media programs for access by the client.

26. (Original) A media program storage system in accordance with claim 25 wherein the network accessible server stores listings of media programs in addition to the preferred listing.

Claims 27-33 (canceled)